

**From:** Glenn Murray  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/21/01 1:40pm  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed Microsoft settlement

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Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
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Antitrust Division, Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20530

Dear Renata Hesse,

I am writing to object to the proposed settlement to the Microsoft antitrust case. As an educator and researcher in technical fields it has been my experience that Microsoft's dominance and way of doing business has hampered innovation and the free exchange of information.

In particular I am concerned about the following points:

- 1) Microsoft's attempt to control the internet via proprietary protocols. I believe these protocols should be open standards and that Microsoft should have to compete on a level playing field.
- 2) Microsoft's proprietary document formats (e.g., for Word, Excel, and Power Point) and their acceptance as a closed standard strongly discourage any competition. It has come to the point that to communicate with others it is necessary to buy expensive Microsoft products---there are no compatible competing products, expensive or otherwise. Having open formats could not but help this situation and, again, provide a level playing field for competitors.

It seems we have antitrust laws for a reason, but the proposed settlement does not address the harm Microsoft has done, continues to do, and evidently intends to do. I found it particularly ironic that the settlement encourages Microsoft to extend its dominance into the educational sector. In education we are continually introducing students to new technology. I think that marketplace competition is the best way to keep prices reasonable and introduce innovation for people trying to learn these technologies. I would like to see an antitrust settlement which has a chance of achieving this.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Murray  
[www.mines.edu/~gmurray/public\\_html/Welcome.html](http://www.mines.edu/~gmurray/public_html/Welcome.html)